

Newsitem on corruption due to prevailing system

†2144. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's reaction to the newsitem captioned "Hamare desh ke tantra ne Sabhi staron par bhrashtachar ko barhava diya hai" published in Punjab Kesari dated 18th June, 2000;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. The Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings are responsible to ensure probity and integrity in their respective organisations. A three pronged strategy of surveillance, prevention and punitive/deterrent action is followed by the Government in this regard. Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens' Charters and setting up of Facilitation Centres have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up. The punitive actions being taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by various rules governing the service conditions of public servants, also act as a deterrent against corruption. The responsibility of ensuring speedy disposal of disciplinary cases vests with the respective Ministry/Department. A time frame, in which disciplinary proceedings are to be completed, has been laid down. An anti-corruption unit is functioning in the Prime Minister's Office since 1997 to monitor complaints of corruption received in that Office. However, the drive against

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

corruption in public services to check mal-practices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government, in this regard, *inter-alia* include introduction of Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 in Lok Sabha to confer statutory status upon the Commission, and Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 to bring greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Government.

Review of system of recruitment to civil services

2145. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to review the system of recruitment to the Civil Services through the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed review, including the time frame fixed therefor;

(c) whether the new system of recruitment would take into account the needs of the market economy and the changing role of the Civil Servants in the post liberalisation era; and

(d) whether a corresponding review is also being undertaken for the post selection training to the would-be managers of Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) to (d) The present system of recruitment to All India and Central Services through the Civil Services Examination was introduced in 1979 on the basis of the recommendations of Kothari Committee has largely remained the same but for some changes